

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2014

I'm glad to say that the meetings have been well attended again this year by the Community and also by the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens, Local and District Councillors and other representatives from Mansfield District Council. This gives us a good platform from which to raise any issues from the Community and get answers back from the relevant representatives.

Every few months the priorities for policing are discussed and new priorities set. Generally the crime figures show a decrease in crime in our area, but there are always issues to be raised with the Police representatives. Unfortunately we have seen a change in personnel again and a drop in police covering our area. Anti social behaviour has declined but operation Animism is on-going. The police have particularly targeted speeding motorists on Clipstone Road East and West, New Mill Lane, Old Mill Lane and Ellesmere Road with some success.

This year we started to organise a Community Fun Day, but this unfortunately had to be cancelled after meetings with the Police Safety Officer who advised that we would require at least 20 marshalls to run the event safely. Instead a Pie & Peas supper was organised to raise funds for the Nature Conservation Group which was trying to raise enough money to buy Spa Ponds. Everyone who attended had a great time and thanks must go to all who helped out with the event. In conjunction with profits made from the very successful monthly Village Markets, we presented a cheque for £750 to the Nature Group at our Christmas social evening. A donation was also made of £100 to the Philippines Disaster Appeal from the Village Markets profits. Special thanks to Phyllis and Jim and their helpers for continuing to organise these monthly markets which go from strength to strength.

The Christmas Lights Committee again managed to raise more funds for extra Christmas lights on the lampposts leading into the village. Councillor Denise Moody performed this years lights switch-on ceremony and a Carol Service was held at both St Albans and the Methodist Chapel followed by a social evening at the Trinity Cafe. My thanks to all involved with that project which brought together a lot of members of the Community.

Sioned Dolan from MDC has been the driving force behind obtaining a grant of £50000 for new "free running" equipment on Queensway Park. This was installed in December and is soon to be opened officially. Thanks also go to her colleagues Jess Knight and Millie Alonso, and MDC Cllrs Denise Moody, Mick Barton and Martin Wright. We also obtained a grant of £1000 from the Tenants & Residents Group to have benches installed and £500 from the Greenwood Project for 4 beech trees which have been planted on the park area.

The relationship with our District Councillors and County Councillors continues to flourish and I would like to thank them all for the support they give the Community Council. This year was particularly sad with the death of retired Councillor Bob Cross who gave much support in donations and goodwill to the Community. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and hard work during the year and hope that we can continue this success in the future.